



Board Meeting Agenda with Actions

June 1, 2023 – Chester Memorial Hall – 225 Gay Street, Chester, CA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

- Terry O'Brien
- Heather Bernikoff
- John Brissenden
- Michele Perrault
- Jeff Griffiths
- Cindy Gustafson
- Jessica Morse
- Brian Oneto
- Susana Reyes
- Ed Valenzuela
- John Church
- Christopher Heppe
- Jim Richardson

Absent:

- Dwight Ceresola
- Bob Johnston
- Phillip Peters

3. Approval of March 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action

Boardmember Cindy Gustafson moved and Boardmember Ed Valenzuela seconded a motion to approve the March 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

4. Board Chair's Report

5. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Executive Officer Update
- b. Administrative Update
- c. Policy & Outreach Update

6. Consent Agenda

Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations

a. #1465-RT

Almanor Rail Trail Planning project in Plumas County in the amount of \$232,491 to Almanor Recreation and Park District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

b. #1581-RT

Kennedy Meadows Area Planning Grant project in Tulare County in the amount of \$59,248 to Friends of the Inyo with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

c. #1586-RT

Eastern Sierra Campground Improvements project in Inyo and Mono counties in the amount of \$209,588 to Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

d. #1589-RT

The Stockton Creek Preserve Recreation and Resilience Enhancements Master Plan Project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$438,150 to Sierra Foothill Conservancy with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

e. #1592-RT

Mountain Meadows Trail Planning project in Lassen County in the amount of \$142,359 to Mountain Meadows Conservancy with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

f. #1597-LC

Sierra Buttes O'Gara-Currens Parcels 33, 34 Acquisition project in Sierra County in the amount of \$158,100 to Sierra County Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

g. #1600-LC

Upper Sacramento River Headwaters Forest Conservation Easement Planning Project in Siskiyou County in the amount of \$75,000 to Siskiyou Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

h. #1613-LC

Morrissey Conservation Easement Development Project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$57,500 to Sierra Foothill Conservancy with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

i. #1622-LC

Kótasim Kódo Chenúkꞵm Bomó: Greenville Rancheria Stewardship Project in Plumas County in the amount of \$399,750 to Greenville Indian Rancheria with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Jeff Griffiths seconded a motion to:

- a. Authorize the Executive Officer to file Notices of Exemption for the Almanor Rail Trail Planning project (1465-RT), Kennedy Meadows Area Planning Grant project (1581-RT), the Eastern Sierra Campground Improvements planning project (1586-RT), The Stockton Creek Preserve Recreation and Resilience Enhancements Master Plan Project (1589-RT), the Mountain Meadows Trail Planning project (1592-RT), the Sierra Buttes O'Gara-Currens Parcels 33, 34 Acquisition project (1597-LC), the Upper Sacramento River Headwaters Forest Conservation Easement Planning Project (1600-LC), the Morrissey Conservation Easement Development Project (1613-LC), the Kótasim Kódo Chenúkꞵm Bomó: Greenville Rancheria Stewardship Project (1622-LC); and
- b. Authorize a grant award to each of the projects listed above for the amounts recommended by staff, and further authorize the staff to enter into the agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

7. Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations Manager Luke Hunt provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation that included brief program background followed by a review of the project summary and staff recommendation for each grant. Staff recommended nine Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program projects totaling \$14,428,993.

a. #1505

Camptonville Bio-energy Facility Project in Yuba County in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Camptonville Community Partnership and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

1. Action – CEQA Requirements

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Susana Reyes seconded a motion to:

- Certify that it reviewed and considered the information in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- Find that it concurs with the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

2. Action – Project Determination

Boardmember Jessica Morse moved and Boardmember Cindy Gustafson seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Camptonville Bio-energy Facility Project (1505), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Camptonville Community Partnership, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

b. #1516

Caldor Fire Restoration Project, Phase One, in El Dorado County in the amount of \$5,250,951 to the Great Basin Institute and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Cindy Gustafson seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Caldor Fire Restoration Project, Phase One (1516), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$5,250,951 to the Great Basin Institute, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

c. #1528

Bullskin Ridge Fuel Break project in Shasta County in the amount of \$608,720 to Shasta County Fire Safe Council and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Ed Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Bullskin Ridge Fuel Break project (1528), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$608,720 to Shasta County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

d. #1542

Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project in Nevada and Sierra counties the amount of \$1,274,000 to the Nevada Irrigation District and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Cindy Gustafson moved and Boardmember Jessica Moore seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project (1542), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,274,000 to the Nevada Irrigation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

e. #1544

Sarah Priest Fuels Reduction Project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$862,176 to the American Indian Council of Mariposa County and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Sarah Priest Fuels Reduction Project (1544), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$862,176 to the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

f. #1547

Magalia Forest and Wildfire Resilience Project in Butte County in the amount of \$999,636 to Butte County Fire Safe Council authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Susana Reyes moved and Boardmember Ed Valenzuela seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Magalia Forest and Wildfire Resilience Project (1547), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$999,636 to Butte County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

g. #1550

1. Proposed Adoption of a PSA/Addendum to the California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact report and make specific findings.
2. Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Implementation Project in Nevada County in the amount of \$2,363,035 to American Rivers.

1. Action – CEQA Requirements

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Ed Valenzuela seconded a motion to make the following findings:

- That all of the effects of the proposed project have been covered in the CalVTP PEIR;
- That all applicable Standard Project Requirements and mitigation measures identified in the CalVTP PEIR will be implemented;
- That the proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR and that no additional CEQA documentation is required;
- That the elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in project areas within the CalVTP treatable landscape are within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines, section 15168, subdivision (c)(2), as documented in the PSA;
- That the elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape will not result in substantial changes in the project;
- That no substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, no new information of substantial importance has been identified, and the proposed project revisions will not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts;
- That none of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred;

And in reliance on those findings, to adopt the following items:

- The PSA Addendum to address the proposed project revisions presented in the PEIR;
- The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
- The Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

2. Action – Project Determination

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Susana Reyes seconded a motion to authorize a grant award for the Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Implementation Project (1550) in the amount of \$2,363,035 to American Rivers, to authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation, and to:

- Authorize the Executive Officer to execute the PSA/Addendum;
- Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as Lead Agency for the for the Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Implementation Project (1550); and

- Authorize staff or SNC's delegate to submit completed data to the Board of Forestry;

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

h. #1564

Antelope Creek WUI Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project in Sierra County in the amount of \$452,650 to the Sierra Valley Fire Safe and Watershed Council and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption and Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

1. Action – CEQA Requirements

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to:

- Certify that it reviewed and considered the information in the Initial Study/Negative Declaration prepared by CDFW; and
- Find that it concurs with the Initial Study/Negative Declaration.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

2. Action – Project Determination

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Antelope Creek WUI Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project (1564), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$452,650 to the Sierra Valley Fire Safe and Watershed Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

i. #1567

American Valley Community Services District Hazardous Fuel Reduction project in Plumas County in the amount of \$617,825 to Plumas County Fire Safe Council and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the American Valley Community Services District Hazardous Fuel Reduction project (1567), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$617,825 to

the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 9, Nay – 1. The motion passed.

8. Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendation (ACTION)

a. #1482-RT

1. Proposed adoption of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and authorization of the filing of a Notice of Determination as Lead Agency.
2. Lost Sierra Route: EZ Verdi Ridge Segment project in Sierra and Nevada counties in the amount of \$747,445 to the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship:

1. Action CEQA Requirements

After review and consideration of the IS/MND and all comments received on the IS/MND, Boardmember Cindy Gustafson moved and Boardmember Jeff Griffiths seconded a motion to make these findings under CEQA:

- That the Board has considered the proposed IS/MND along with any public comments prior to project approval;
- That on the basis of the IS/MND and the comments received, there is no substantial evidence in the record before it that the project will have a significant effect on the environment;
- That the Board reviewed and analyzed the IS/MND for the proposed project and the IS/MND for the proposed project reflects the Board's independent judgement and analysis.

and to:

- Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; Adopt the IS/MND as final; and Authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as lead agency for the Lost Sierra Route: EZ Verdi Ridge Segment project.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

2. Action – Project Determination

Boardmember Cindy Gustafson moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to authorize a grant award in the amount of \$747,445 to the Sierra Buttes

Trail Stewardship, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

9. Strategic Land Conservation Directed Grant Program Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

a. #1593-LC

Wildflower Ridge Preserve Acquisition Project in Nevada County in the amount of \$735,500 to Bear Yuba Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Ed Valenzuela seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Wildflower Ridge Preserve Acquisition Project (1593-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$735,500 to the Bear Yuba Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

j. #1603-LC

Moy Acquisition and Protection Project in Placer County in the amount of \$592,099 to Placer Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Susana Reyes moved and Boardmember Cindy Gustafson seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Moy Acquisition and Protection Project (1603-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$592,099 to the Placer Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

k. #1610-LC

Tribal Land Back Purchase to Conserve Cultural and Natural Resources project in Mono County in the amount of \$2,032,048 to Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Jeff Griffiths moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Tribal Land Back Purchase to Conserve Cultural and Natural Resources (1610-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,032,048 to the Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association, subject to receiving a property appraisal approved by the Department of General Services, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

I. #1619-LC

Tahoe Forest Gateway – The Leidesdorff Project in Placer County in the amount of \$750,000 to 40 Acre Conservation League with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Cindy Gustafson moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Tahoe Forest Gateway - The Leidesdorff Project (1619-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$750,000 to the 40 Acre Conservation League, subject to receiving a property appraisal approved by the Department of General Services, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

m. #1621-LC

Conserving the Trinity Headwaters Forest for Watershed and Community Benefit project in Trinity County in the amount of \$1,487,740 to The Pacific Forest Trust, Incorporated, with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Action

Boardmember Ed Valenzeula moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Conserving the Trinity Headwaters Forest for Watershed and Community Benefit (1621-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,487,740 to the Pacific Forest Trust, Incorporated, subject to receiving a property appraisal approved by the Department of General Services, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

10. Sierra Nevada Landscape Grant Pilot Program (ACTION)

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Susana Reyes seconded a motion to :

- a) Authorize the Executive Officer to formally recommend the Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP) to CAL FIRE and other funders to initiate the Landscape Grant Pilot Program.
- b) Delegate authority to Executive Officer to authorize a grant award to the Great Basin Institute on behalf of HELP in the amount of \$2 million to complete recreation and tourism planning activities once HELP identifies proposed planning activities and conditioned on compliance with CEQA.
- c) Delegate authority to the Executive Officer to make determinations as Lead Agency under CEQA and if approved, file Notices of Exemption necessary for Landscape Grant Pilot Program implementation.
- d) Authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for Landscape Grant Pilot Program implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

Boardmember Cindy Gustafson left the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

11. Action Plan Update (ACTION)

Action

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to approve the draft 2023-24 Action Plan and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 9, Nay – 0. The motion passed.

12. Boardmembers' Comments

13. Public Comments

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.